

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CU-04 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-13

OIC-04 RSR-01 /141 W

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O 011535Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9466

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI BR PE

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES

REF: 171730Z AUG 73 DAO BRASILIA, BRAZIL

1. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN BRAZIL WHICH IS CLOSELY READ BY BRAZILIAN MILITARY OFFICERS, ON AUGUST 30 FRONTPAGED EXCERPTS FROM LATIN AGENCY INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL EDGARDO MERCADO JARRIN, FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER OF PERU AND CARRIED FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW IN INTERIOR PAGES.

2. GENERAL MERCADO WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE, PERU WOULD QUESTION THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD AND THAT INTER-AMERICAN SECURITY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY TO CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS WHILE STRENGTHENING THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND SELF DETERMINATION. AT THE RISK OF DUPLICATING REPORTING ELSEWHERE, BUT IN ORDER TO CONTRAST THE BRAZILIAN POSITION, FOLLOWING ARE THE POINTS MADE BY GENERAL MERCADO:

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A. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED

FROM THE NARROW ONE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMIES TOWARD THE SOLUTION OF CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS. HE CALLED FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SECURITY SYSTEM TOWARD NEW FORMS WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT "GEO-ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY." HE REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC AGGRESSION TO WHICH UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE SUBJECTED WHICH INTERFERES WITH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MARKETS AND BRINGS ABOUT SITUATIONS WHICH DISTORT LOCAL STANDARDS AND RESULT IN DEPENDENCE AND EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL DOMINATION.

B. THE NATURE OF THE THREAT HAS CHANGED AND AN EXTRA-CONTINENTAL ATTACK IS NO LONGER ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THE NEW MULTIPOLAR WORLD. SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT ARE INTERDEPENDENT SECURITY MUST BE DEFINED ON THE BASIS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FREE OF ALL EXTERNAL PRESSURES WHETHER ECONOMIC OR IDEOLOGICAL.

C. LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SHOULD BE BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY WITH THE REALIZATION THAT UNDERDEVELOPED AND ECONOMIC COERCION ARE THE PRESENT THREATS TO PEACE.

D. SECURITY IS A RELATIVE CONCEPT WHICH MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS AND DOCTRINES OF EACH COUNTRY. THUS, SECURITY FOR THE US WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE THE SAME FOR PERU, ECUADOR OR ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY.

E. FROM A TECHNICAL-PROFESSIONAL STANDPOINT, TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT EXCHANGES AMONG AMERICAN ARMIES IS VERY BENEFICIAL TO LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY INSTITUTIONS BUT SUCH TRAINING CAN BE DISTORTED BY "EXTRANEUS" OBJECTIVES ON THE PART OF PARTICULAR HOST COUNTRIES WHICH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED IN ANY FORM.

3. SUPERFICIALLY, AT LEAST, A GREAT DEAL OF GENERAL MERCADO'S RHETORIC IS ALSO REFLECTED IN BRAZILIAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC DOCTRINE. FOR INSTANCE, BRAZIL ALSO EQUATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH NATIONAL SECURITY. BRAZILIAN UN DELEGATE FRAZAO HAS BEEN ESPOUSING THE CONCEPT OF "COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY" BEFORE THAT BODY FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, THE BRAZILIANS HAVE NEVER CARRIED THE THESIS TO THE CONCLUSIONS ACHIEVED BY MERCADO. BRAZIL IS AS CHARY AS ANY COUNTRY ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERVENTION IN ITS AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THE DISBANDING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SECURITY SYSTEM AND THE "RELATIVISTIC" CONCEPT OF SECURITY HAS STRUCK BRAZILIAN MILITARY LEADERS AS EXCEPTIONALLY SOFT-HEADED AND THE LATTER PARTICULARLY AS CONCEALING THE "GERM" CONFIDENTIAL

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OF RELAXING SANCTIONS ON CUBA. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE EXTERNAL THREAT CONCEPT IS CLEARLY DIMINISHED IN BRAZILIAN EYES BUT IN ITS PLACE IS THEIR CONCERN FOR A DEFENSE AGAINST INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM FED FROM EXTERNAL BASES. SIMILARLY, THE SLANT OF MERCADO'S ARGUMENTS ON ALLEGED ECONOMIC AGGRESSION WITH THEIR CLEAR ANTI-US BIAS, IS NOT LIKELY TO SIT TOO WELL WITH BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVES NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR ITS US TRADING PARTNER BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE

BRAZILIANS RIGHTFULLY FEEL THAT THEY WOULD BE A LIKELY SECONDARY TARGET FOR MERCADO'S APPROACH. THIS, PLUS THE FACT THAT THE BRAZILIANS OBJECT TO THE INJECTION OF "POLITICAL ISSUES" INTO A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE HAS LED THEM TO INSTRUCT THEIR DELEGATION TO OPPOSE THE PERUVIAN THESIS.

4. SUGGEST THAT THE ABOVE AND REFTTEL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE US DELEGATION FOR BACKGROUND ON THE BRAZILIAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL05686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CRIMMINS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730866/aaaabweq.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 171730Z AUG 73 DAO BRASILIA, BRAZIL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTADO DE SAO PAULO INTERVIEW WITH GEN. EDGARDO MERCADO JARRIN, FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER OF PERU
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, BR, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005